

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 3611

Examiner: Boehler, Anne Marie

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San Diego, California
June 27, 2003
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GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir or Madam:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants make the below-listed documents of record in the above-identified application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, this statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not a representation that the information cited is effective as prior art to the application or is material to patentability.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and anything being referred to as enclosed herein is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via Express Mail Post Office to Addressee Label No. EV 292300485 US, with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 27th day of June, 2003.

Signature:

Joyce Vogel

U.S. Patent Documents

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,172,786 to Tadakazu Ishibashi, et al., issued December 22, 1992;
2. U.S. Patent No. 5,279,381 to Kazutaka Fukada, issued January 18, 1994;
3. U.S. Patent No. 5,533,585 to Shizuo Kawano, et al., issued July 9, 1996;
4. U.S. Patent No. 5,957,230 to Tomoki Harano, et al., issued September 28, 1999;
5. U.S. Patent No. 6,006,715 to Yoshio Izumi, et al., issued December 28, 1999;
6. U.S. Patent No. 6,032,754 to Yoshio Izumi, issued March 7, 2000;
7. U.S. Patent No. 6,067,872 to Kazuyoshi Miyahara, et al., issued May 30, 2000;
8. U.S. Patent No. 6,070,683 to Yoshio Izumi, et al., issued June 6, 2000;
9. U.S. Patent No. 6,499,551 B2 to Gerard J. Karpik, issued December 31, 2002;
10. U.S. Patent No. 6,561,302 B2 to Gerard J. Karpik, issued May 13, 2003; and
11. U.S. Patent No. US 2002/0027029 A1 to Yasuaki Yatagai et al., issued March 7, 2002.

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Copies of the above-listed documents, which are listed on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08, are enclosed.


It is respectfully requested that these documents be (1) fully considered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the examination of the above-identified application; and (2) printed on any patent that may issue on this application. It is also respectfully requested that

a copy of Form PTO/SB/08, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned to the undersigned with the next communication in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b). Therefore, it is believed that no fee is required in connection with this submission. In the event that a fee is required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2298, in the name of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

6.26.03
Date


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